

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for detecting colorectal carcinoma in a patient, comprising:

extracting blood serum or plasma from the patient;

measuring an amount of a nucleic acid associated with encoding catenin  
~~detecting the presence or absence of beta-catenin associated RNA~~ in the blood serum or plasma; and

determining a possibility of the presence of the colorectal cancer in the patient based on the amount of the nucleic acid measured in the blood serum or plasma  
~~detected presence of beta-catenin associated RNA selected from the group consisting of beta-catenin, alpha-catenin, and Ecadherin.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the catenin is beta-catenin or alpha catenin ~~whereby the cancer carcinoma is colorectal cancer.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1 2, wherein the nucleic acid is ~~whereby determining the presence of colorectal cancer comprises detecting pre-neoplastic colorectal polyps based on the detected presence of beta-catenin RNA.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended). The method according to claim 1 2, wherein the nucleic acid is beta catenin DNA ~~whereby the DNA is derived from one of the group consisting of: gene encoded beta-catenin, gene encoded alpha-catenin gene encoded E-cadherin, and other gene encoded beta-catenin associated proteins.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, ~~whereby~~  
wherein the patient is a human ~~or animal~~.

Claims 6-29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein measuring the amount of beta-catenin RNA is carried out with a RT-PCR method which amplifies a nucleic acid fragment corresponding to a portion of beta-catenin gene.

Claim 31 (new): The method according to claim 30, wherein the RT-PCR method uses a pair of primers identified as SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 32 (new): The method according to claim 30, wherein the RT-PCR method uses a pair of primers identified as SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 7.

Claim 33 (new): The method according to claim 30, wherein the RT-PCR method uses a pair of primers identified as SEQ ID NO: 8 and SEQ ID NO: 9.

Claim 34 (new): The method according to claim 4, wherein measuring the amount of beta-catenin DNA is carried out with a PCR method which amplifies a nucleic acid fragment corresponding to a portion of beta-catenin gene.

Claim 35 (new): The method according to claim 34, wherein the PCR method using a pair of primers flanking the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> introns of beta-catenin gene.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to claim 35, wherein the pair of primers is identified as SEQ ID NO: 10 and SEQ ID NO: 11.

Claim 36 (new): The method according to claim 35, wherein the pair of primers is identified as SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein a volume of the blood serum or plasma used is from 2 ml to 5 ml.